

St. Aloysius Happy House Learning Center

St. Aloysius Novitiate

P. O. Box 98, Hopewell Jct., N Y 12533

A.M.D.G.

MARCH NEWS 2014

Dear Parents:

May the peace of our Lord be with you and your family. The month of March brings the celebration of two great Saints of the Church: Saint Patrick, Patron of the Archdiocese of New York on March 17th, and Saint Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church on March 19th. Let us place ourselves and our children under the intercession of these two great Patrons.

The children will receive their next report card on Friday, March 28th. If any parent needs to see the teacher, please do not hesitate to make an appointment as soon as you can. We appreciate the interest that you show in cooperating with the School and its policies.

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on March 5th. This week the children will begin the annual Lenten collection for the missions. In order to introduce the children to the real meaning of Lent, we will teach them how to sacrifice themselves for others by sharing and by doing good deeds. The children are taking a container home. They will keep this container during Lent and every time they perform a good deed (setting the table, picking up toys, cleaning their room, helping with the dishes, etc.), they will deposit a coin in it.

Please reinforce the Lenten message by suggesting to your children ways in which they can express their love for God and others. Examples: **Praying** before meals, at bedtime say the Our Father, a Hail Mary, etc. for the world's needy. **Fasting** could be as simple as giving up that extra cookie or substituting other beverages at a meal with water. **Giving** is what we hope they will learn to do on a daily basis during this Lent.

This year again the money we collect from the children at St. Aloysius Happy House will be sent to the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York to help with the various needs of the world. Last year's collection was \$750.00.

Please help us in this endeavor so that this may be a meaningful Lent for our children. Remind them that there is much joy in giving. As Saint Francis of Assisi said: "It is in giving of ourselves that we receive." This is the beauty of our Easter celebration: that Jesus gave His life in order to save us and to bring us joy. "We learn to help the needy for the love of God. Such concern not only provides the poor with material help, but also represents an opportunity for the spiritual growth of the giver." (Blessed John Paul II)

May your reward be the satisfaction that you and your little ones will feel at the thought that you have helped a very good cause. God will bless you abundantly. A heartfelt thanks and the prayers from all of us at St. Aloysius Novitiate, especially during this season of Lent.

It is my fervent prayer that you will find this Lent a favorable time for bearing witness to the Gospel of Charity. Let us pray to Mary our Mother to guide us and accompany us in our Lenten journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mother Gloria Castro, OBT
Principal

